

FROM MR. F.S. ELIAS

Hong Kong 24 Embassy Court
23rd January, 1958

COPY

My dear George:

Please forgive the familiarity but I do feel that I know you after having heard so much about you.

Its very sad to have to write at a time like this, when I feel that I have lost one of my very dearest friends but I do feel I should tell you a few things that happened the last few days. On Max's return from San Francisco, he had a few days in bed, feeling pretty low, - I went over to Kowloon daily and visited him and of course as you well know, he hated the idea of being sick. He was up and about after a week or so but never really was himself again. He used to come over and lunch with me about three times weekly as he loved our Jewish home food (in fact he had only last week booked an apartment and arranged for a cook) - On Saturday the 18th we went to the races and lunched with Bill Stanton whom you have no doubt heard of. He worked with Max in Chungking during the war. He left the races at 6 PM.

On Sunday the 19th I went over to Kowloon (I live on the Hongkong side) at 12 noon and Max, George and I lunched together and had tea at 5:30 PM when George left and Max and I stayed at the hotel and went out for a quiet bowl of soup at 8 PM. He was then not feeling too well and complained of indigestion I left him at approximately 9:30. On Monday the 20th he came home with me for lunch and at 3 PM we went to my furniture store to order furniture for his new apartment. When we were through I took him to the ferry, and he was not feeling well at all. I said nothing but crossed over with him and took him up to his room. He later went down to the lobby and had tea with George. On Tuesday 21st I phoned the hotel in the morning at 9:30 AM. There was no reply - I went to the Gloucester Coffee Lounge at 10:30 where our small gathering of "Coffee Club" members (there are 11 of us) meet daily and he never showed up.

George phoned me at 11:30 and said he was in the hospital. I went to the hospital at 2 PM and stayed till 8:30 with George, when we decided to cable you. Fanchen was also with us. He seemed a bit better and Dr. Ramler who is also Jewish and a great friend of Max's was with him from noon on Tuesday until 9PM on Wednesday. Again he seemed better early in the afternoon and George who had been with him since 8:30 AM left the hospital at 5PM to go home and wash and have a bite to eat. He promised to return in 2 hours at 7PM. Fanchen and I stayed in the room and Max was getting very restless. He was breathing heavily and feeling uncomfortable with a needle in his arm feeding him with saline and another tube in his nostril (oxygen). He was terribly sweet and listened to me when I begged him to keep still and try to rest but every now and then would throw his covers off. His nurse (he had a day and night private nurse) couldn't quite make him rest so I stood by and held his hand until the doctor arrived at approximately 6:35 PM.

I then left the room - in ten minutes, Dr. Ramler came out and told me that Max had passed away. He suddenly collapsed. George arrived a few minutes later and we had so many things to arrange and then rushed in to put a call through to you. This afternoon we had Max's body encased in a coffin at the Jewish Cemetary

23rd January, 1958

and I read Kadeesh. The coffin will be at the funeral parlor until Monday when I think arrangements will be completed by tomorrow for Monday's P.A.A. plane to San Francisco.

I would want you to know that everything possible was done, but alas it turned out this way. George and Fanchen proved what wonderful and loyal friends they were. As for me, I know I have lost one of my very closest friends. Of course we met the first trip Max made to Shanghai but during the last few years in Hong Kong we became very attached. I cannot tell you how much I shall miss him and all I can say, he was one of God's Good Men, May his soul rest in peace. Thank God for one thing, the end was quick and painless. I know how close you both were and so please accept my very deepest sympathy.

If there is anything I can do for you, please don't fail to let me know. I am at your service. If I have garbled this letter please forgive me - I am not reading it over as I am not quite myself.

Very sincerely,

Freddy

From Mr. F.S. Elias - Hongkong

J. Polin

FUNERAL OF MAX S. POLIN
JANUARY 31, 1958

FLORAL OFFERINGS RECEIVED FROM:

Pan American World Airways Family
San Francisco International Airport
San Francisco 28, California

Mr. and Mrs. Anker Henningsen
c/o Henningsen (California) Inc.
369 Pine Street
San Francisco 4, California

Mr. and Mrs. Ki Chun
5251 Hollywood Blv'd.
Hollywood 27, California

Mrs. Elizabeth Norden
18 Moore Place
San Francisco 9, California

Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Bond, Box 495
Pante Vedra Beach, Florida

The Members of the Hongkong Coffee Club
c/o Dr. George Sellett
Peninsula Hotel
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Marvin and Mia (members of family)

Packard and Nan (members of family)

Mr. and Mrs. H.N. Bixby
The Pan American World Airways System
Executive Offices, Chrysler Building
135 E. 42nd Street
New York 17, N.Y.

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Schlenker
Miss Carol E. Schlenker
100 Florida Avenue
Piedmont 10, California

Dr. George Sellett
Peninsula Hotel
Kowloon, Hong Kong

Mr. and Mrs. N.F. Allman
390 Riverside Drive
New York 25, N.Y.

Mr. Bob Jose
Pan American World Airways
San Francisco International Airport,
San Francisco 28, California

Page -2- Funeral of Mr. Max S. Polin

Floral Offerings (continued)

Mr. O.G. Steen
35 DeSabra Road
San Mateo, California

Mr. John L. Merrill
582 Market Street
San Francisco 4, California

Mr. Herbert W. Barrett
244 California Street
San Francisco 11, California

Mr. and Mrs. Fanchen Loh
Cathay Oil Company
Box 537
Hong Kong

Mathilda Meyer
Hong Kong

Mimi Lau
Hong Kong

Mr. and Mrs. G.N. Chu
Esme, Sisi and Dachen Chu
Hong Kong